THE CITY OF YPSILANTI NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY MANAGER

Greetings from the City Manager's Office. It is likely that someone in your family is returning to school this week. I know my own grandchildren are looking forward to seeing their friends and teachers again. It can be such an exciting time for many of us as the summer winds to an end and cooler temperatures mark the beginning of changing leaves. It's not been an easy summer for many of us as our community still reels from the dramatic upheaval that has been caused by COVID-19.

It is so important now that we continue to support one another by getting vaccinated, masking when in crowded indoor spaces, and practicing social distancing. The State of Michigan has been fortunate compared to the rest of the country, but we need to continue the vaccination push to prevent the Delta variant from ravaging our community. It is so important that we work together as a community to protect our most vulnerable. Our City Council has made a mask mandate for indoor spaces in City government and I joined them on page 2 of this issue to do my part. Pop up clinics are happening all around us and only together we can reach the targets that allow us to return to normal lives completely. City Hall has worked to remove hindrances from a process that is not hostile to stay in and know that we are here to help. I am wishing you all a beautiful and safe Autumn season.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I also wanted to thank folks who participated in the public engagement sessions regarding the development of 2018 Park City. Council has recently approved an agreement with Rowenow to begin the due diligence and site control work needed to proceed in the coming months with a purchase agreement in hand. I'm so thankful that we have found a developer who takes seriously the challenges faced by our community.

Please visit our website to learn more and please do not hesitate to reach us with questions or comments about the proposed development at www.ypsilanti.net/feedback/city-of-ypsilanti-com

FUNDED EMPLOYMENT SAFETY UPDATE

For the most updated information regarding mask guidance please visit: Michigan.gov/Fact-Covering-FACes

PROCEEDING ZAZU SERIES

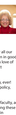
Lastly, I would like to thank John E. Lawrence and his team for the wonderful Frog Island Jazz Series over the past several years. This event has brought thousands of people to our community and has shown responsibly and* appreciate all the work that has gone into following mask and social distancing requirements while doing this high quality production. John and his team have gone above and beyond this summer.

Staying connected,
Frances McMullan

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR LEO ALLEN BROCKMAN

Hello Residents,

It always seems that summer goes too fast, especially after enduring a challenging winter and spring filled with the Ypsilanti community's spread in our region demonstrates the struggle with Covid-19 is not over. Delta is more contagious and dangerous than previous variants. We are seeing a surge in hospitalizations compared to previous stages, resulting in significantly more hospitalizations for unvaccinated cities. We ask everyone to remain vigilant with all CDC recommendations to keep Ypsilanti safe and healthy. We are encouraging everyone to get your vaccine if you haven't and if you have, to get your booster vaccine when you are eligible.



It well educated that Ypsilanti Community Schools have a new superintendent, Jeanice Weber Keller. For all our children returning to school, we hope for wise leadership, guidance, and safety. May they learn in good health and be safe from the virus and its variants. We ask our Ypsilanti Community Schools to work harmony, engage their curiosity, and enrich their imaginations. These are the leaders of the next generation, with much to do and hopefully much to enjoy.

Ypsilanti Community Schools begins Monday, August 30, 2021, the first part before Labor Day, even! Preschoolers will begin on September 8, 2021. Please check all media outlets for updates on policy, quarantine, protocols, and so much more! Academic calendar.

ERCI classes begin earlier than usual on August 30. Many difficult issues face administration, faculty, and students as they adapt to the return to learn while living with Covid. They are not alone in facing these challenges. Whether times are harder or easier, the City of Ypsilanti always stands ready to be in partnership with ERCI.

We are monitoring and attention to the gun violence happening in the city. The police are on the job but need community support. Gun violence is a complex problem with many causes and many consequences. Safety, like many concerns, can be addressed by willing to anonymously call 911 when they see any activity related to violence. If you have more detailed information to relay to the authorities, call the anonymous tip line at 734-482-9111. Our community is a community of people who care about one another and are committed to a safer place up to help us make our neighborhoods safe.

Pray for Haiti and Haitians. Haiti is a country with a long and difficult history.

Love is the answer,
Mayor Leo

CITY UPDATES

WATER & CONTAMINATING VAPORS

Arts Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Parks & Recreation Commission
Two Commissioners
Three Youth Members

Dangerous Bldgs
Dangerous Buildings Officer

Sustainability Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Historic District Commission
Commissioner

YCOA
One Board Member

Human Relations Commission
Two Commissioners
Two Youth Members

Zoning Board of Appeals
Two Commissioners

Police Advisory Commission
Commissioner
Two Youth Members

Fill out this online form if you are interested in the City of Ypsilanti Boards and Commissions.

SPECIAL MAIL TOWNSHIPS

Check out this map below at the southwest corner of Michigan and Huron in the 1930s! All four buildings pictures were erected ca. 1860 and are examples of the commercial Italianate style, each with a distinctive cornice and decorative brackets and window hoods. Many of the Ypsilanti buildings have undergone various changes and restorations. Check it out next time you're downtown!

PENSION & DEBAR PENSION, PUBLIC MEETING REMINDER

Friday afternoon was a beautiful opportunity to paddle the Huron River through Ypsilanti. Four friends and I put in below Rice Dam and paddled through town past the put-in/take-out at Frog Island, under the Tridge, past Riverside Park (where we saw the Ypsilanti Jazz Series being constructed), past the Riverside Park plant, around North Bay of Hall Lake, and returning to the take-out at Spring Street. Along the way we saw Canada Geese, Great Blue Herons and an Osprey. This was a great reminder of what a gem we have in the Huron. A hours through Ypsilanti.

I want to invite folks to attend the upcoming Townhall for the Pen Dam Removal Public Engagement. We meeting was designed to get input from the community regarding how it interacts with the river and visions for restoring the river, banks, and The Park in the eventually that Pen Dam is removed. The meeting will be held on September 28 from 6:00PM-8:00PM. We are inviting folks who are residents in general Ward 3. A report will be synthesized from the input from these meetings and distributed. A subsequent Townhall (Ward 6) is an opportunity to allow for feedback on the report and additional comments. Please RSVP at www.ypsilanti.net/Pen-Dam-Townhall-Sept-2021 for the schedule and access links for the upcoming Workshops and Townhalls and for the Public Engagement Committee meeting. The Committee will review the report and provide recommendations to the City Council. Recordings from this's project updates will be posted in the future. A comment form for feedback will be posted on the page for those who are not able to attend the virtual meetings. FAQ about the river and dam removal will be updated periodically through the project.

I look forward to seeing folks at the meetings and out on the river. The Huron River is a natural treasure that deserves our best efforts for improving its health. Our community deserves a healthy river.

Peace,
Steve Wilcoxen
City Council, Ward 2

VACATION NOTICE(FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY)

Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday – 10:00 portions of the crowds that fall under Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) control will see repaving along with pedestrian, disabled and bicycle improvements including sidewalk ramps, bike lanes, safety signage and traffic calming. This MDOT project will also address the need for a safe non-motorized crossing of Huron Street over the I-94 bridge.

Public input sessions on the Huron, Michigan and Hamilton Streets project in mid-August at the Ypsilanti City Hall and Ypsilanti Township Civic Center. The Ypsilanti presentation was livestreamed by the City here, and the PowerPoint presentation is available here. Additional project information can be found here.

FROM THE CITY TREASURER

SUMMER PROPERTY TAXES: All payments must be received in the Treasurer's Office no later than 4pm on Friday, Sept. 10 to be considered on time accepted. On February 15, a penalty of 3% plus 1% monthly interest will be added.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
1. Pay online HERE
2. Pay by Phone 833-440-0680
3. Pay in Person – Drop Box location (8:00AM to 4:00PM) or at the Night Deposit Box (After office hours)
4. Pay thru Bank of Ann Arbor (Drive Up Lane)
5. Pay by Mail - Pay to the City of Ypsilanti, 1 S Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-3925.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DEFERMENT

From the desk of Tax Collector

Captain Barnabas has advised me of his intent to retire. Most likely too late day on the Rose will Tuesday, October 7th. His retirement would mean that in Lieu being presented by Captain and Firefighter Operations being promoted to Lt. We will be also be hiring of 2 additional Firefighters to bring us to full staffing.

With Captain Barnabas retiring, I am asking that you begin to brainstorm knowledge and abilities. We will do our best to take advantage of our time left with him and we congratulate him for his service. Congratulations also to Mike and Steve on their well-deserved promotions.

A ready-bend firefighter is on probation for a year. They earn their badge once they have fulfilled certain requirements when the community deems his/her confidence in the firefighter to be earned. [illegible]

During the one-year probationary period a new firefighter isn't just given a badge, they have to earn it.

Fire Fighter Chad Nelson receiving his badge.

Fire Fighter Leonard Pop receiving his badge.

Fire Fighter Graham Collins receiving his badge.

OTHER UPDATES

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL WATER RECLAMATION MONTH

Ypsilanti Township Board has celebrated the start of National Water Reclamation Month today, encouraging eligible Michigan citizens to register in September.

"Our democracy is at its best when voters participate in the ballot," said Secretary Benson. "Michigander's now have more options than ever before to simply and safely register and cast their ballots. Thanks to the hard work of our clerks, we have a lot to celebrate. I hope everyone who is eligible considers their right to vote and learning more about how to participate in our election."

The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) established September as National Voter Registration Month in 2012 as a nonpartisan campaign with the purpose of increasing voter participation and awareness about state requirements. September 28 is National Voter Registration Day.

Ten months remain to register to vote in person up to 8 p.m. on Election Day at their city or township clerk's office. Residents can also register online at Michigan.gov/Vote or by mail at least 15 days prior to an election. In the 15 days leading up to an election and on Election Day, voters must register in person to vote in the election.

To be eligible to register to vote you must be:
- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days before an election;
- A United States citizen;
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

Residents must provide proof of eligibility and residency to register if registering in the 14 days prior to an election, including Election Day. Documents considered a proof of residency must include the voter's name and current address. Digital copies of documents are accepted. Such documents can include:
- Current utility bill
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck or government check
- Other government document

Local election officials as well as the Michigan Department of State are the most trusted sources for election information. Residents can find registration information, including the location of their clerk's office and steps to complete registration, at the Michigan Voter Information Center at Michigan.gov/Vote. To report incorrect election information, please contact misinformation@michigan.gov.

In addition, ballotready.org is a nonpartisan tool created by NASS in conjunction with state election officials to help eligible voters learn how and where to go vote.

GOV. WHITMER PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER AS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

LANSING, Mich. – Governor Whitmer is celebrating Michigan's Hispanic population by proclaiming September 2021 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

"Michigan's Hispanic and Latino residents are an essential part of our state's cultural and economic fabric," said Governor Whitmer. "I am proud to proclaim September as Hispanic Heritage month and celebrate alongside a community filled with rich tradition as we continue to ensure that Michigan is a welcoming and inclusive place for all."

"Governor Whitmer's proclamation establishing September as Hispanic Heritage Month is very exciting! Michigan's Hispanic population is a vibrant and thriving Michigan's future, and we are proud to be a Month of official celebration," said Jesse Arreguy, Chair, Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "We are thrilled to celebrate our Hispanic Heritage Month with our Governor and our state. We are also very committed to her vision of Michigan's Future. The Hispanic and Latino community in Michigan is second to many threats from many nations and cultures, but we all stand together as Michiganders! Adelante!"

The West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce applauds the efforts of our state government to proclaim September Hispanic Heritage Month," said Guillermo Cisneros, President and CEO, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "This is great recognition for our state and highlights the hundreds of organizations that are in Michigan contributing to the economy and making an impact in the community."

"Hispanic Business Year is proud to celebrate our Hispanic Heritage Month, as we continue our relationship to this great state of Michigan," said Monica Rosales, Executive Director, Grand Rapids Hispanic Business Year. "It is only fitting that we celebrate the contributions of our Hispanic families that continue to contribute and enrich our state beyond measure."

The month of September recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic and Latinos in Michigan and the United States. Michigan's Hispanic and Latino population has grown from 2010 to 2019 by nearly 20% to 500,000 residents. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Hispanics and Latinos now make up 5.4% of Michigan's population, up from 4.4% in 2010.

View the full proclamation here.

PLASTIC BAGS & STRAW RECYCLING

Anna McKay, WRWA Intern

You may have seen the recycling detectives walking through your neighborhood recently, helping WRWA (the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority) learn what questions residents still have about what can be recycled in their curbside bins. Unfortunately, the one thing they could not help with was plastic bags. Plastic bags are the biggest wrapping-from-water bottles and paper towels, bubble wrap, and produce bags. Of the recycling carts the recycling detectives found contamination (items that are not acceptable), 69% of them had plastic bags or plastic film!

Plastic bags and plastic film are recyclable, but not in your curbside cart. Plastic bags and plastic film tangle in the machinery at the recycling sorting facilities, which causes many problems and creates a safety risk for workers as they stop the processing lines to cut the tangled bags and film out of the machinery. Plastic film can be recycled, but it needs to be kept clean and dry (no food contamination) and much fewer and can be recycled. Just to clean out the contamination from one of the many consumer recycling helps ensure the materials you work hard to recycle are ultimately able to be recycled.

The best option for reducing contamination presented by plastic films is to avoid them when you can, which is a difficult task since they are seemingly everywhere. You can reduce plastic films by choosing reusable substitutes: cloth produce bags, reusable bags for bulk items, and reusable food storage containers to get the most out of the material. Even after reducing and reusing, you may still have plastic bags or plastic film you can not avoid. In this case, it is recommended to recycling them at drop-off locations.

Plastic bags and plastic film can be recycled at various drop-off bins around your community. Many grocery stores have bins for plastic bags. Meijer, Walmart, and Kroger accept clean, dry plastic bags and film. Plastic film recycling bins are also in their front entrances. PlasticFilmRecycling.org has a map to direct you to finding nearby drop-off locations like these, as well as educational resources to learn more. The Washtenaw County Resource Recovery Facility also accepts plastic film for recycling. Check out the resources on the WRWA website and your local drop-off stations and Recycle Ann Arbor also runs a program of drop-off bins throughout the county as part of their Plastic Pollution Solution program.

Even after you've reduced and reused your plastic bags and plastic film as much as possible, you'll probably still have some remaining. It's important that you then make the effort to dispose of it responsibly. When they are recycled properly – they can be repurposed into useful items like composite lumber instead of ending up in a landfill, polluting the environment, or causing problems at recycling facilities.

RECYCLE
empty, clean & dry plastic bags & wraps at store drop-offs
WRT in Curbside Recycling
Plastic bags and film
Product packaging wrapping or film
PlasticFilmRecycling.org
WRWA
WRWA
WRWA